

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently amended) A method of assessing levels of oxidant stress by measuring non-aggregated, ~~by covalent bonded~~ bond-polymerized proteins formed after mixing oxidants with proteins and non-aggregated, covalent bond-polymerized proteins of biological specimens comprising the steps of:

separating non-aggregated proteins from aggregated proteins by difference in solubility of the proteins in buffer solution;

separating non-aggregated proteins by differences in the molecular mass using sodium dodecyl sulfate-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE) or chromatography under denaturing condition of a purified and mixtures of proteins;

visualizing proteins with protein staining and Western blot analysis using antibody against the proteins, respectively; and

measuring increased levels of polymerized protein as an indication of increased levels of oxidative stress.

OK TO ENTER (312 amendment)  
6 Jun 2004 ael